



Residency Training Curriculum:

Tanenbaum completed a 5 year pilot program with Maria Fareri Children's Hospital in Westchester New York, developing educational resources and curriculum on religio-cultural competence for their pediatric residency program. Materials include:

1. **Full-day training:** A PowerPoint presentation and accompanying facilitators guide that takes trainers step by step through the process of delivering a 6 hour training on religio-cultural competence for first-year medical residents. This training can also be broken into two half-days or even separate 1 ½ hour sections. The following topics are featured:
 - a) **Cultural Competence: An Overview** – An overview of many of the major areas within the cultural competency movement such as socio-economic status, language access, sexual orientation, race & ethnicity etc. This section demonstrates how a lack of awareness, understanding and effective communication around these key issues can lead to substandard or disparate care.
 - b) **Exploring Identities: Who We Are Impacts Others** – This section demonstrates how our lens plays a role in shaping the patient-provider encounter. Medical professionals sometimes operate with the false impression that their assessments and decision-making operate in a vacuum that is “objective” and separate and apart from their religious, cultural and other social identities. Asking participants to examine how their own “lens” influences their perceptions of, and interactions with, patients will help participants to be more aware and cautious of when it could result in misinterpreting or overlooking the needs, intentions or actions of their patients.
 - c) **Why Religion Matters: Important Trends** – This section is designed to illustrate why religion is an aspect of care that needs to be addressed so that residents understand why this topic is relevant to their professional development and practice. Increasing diversity and the high percentage of religiosity in the United States, necessitates an understanding of the belief systems and religious practices that guide the decisions of patients and/or their families.
 - d) **Religion and Health Care: Intersections** – Explores three real-life case studies to bring the conversation from the theoretical to the practical. The cases paint a picture of what sort of impact religion can have on patient-physician interactions. In addition, it allows participants to consider and evaluate how they would react so they can be prepared for similar situations they might encounter in the future.
 - e) **Spiritual Histories: Putting Religio-Cultural Competence into Practice** – This section will provide guidelines and recommendations for how to respectfully obtain relevant information from patients about their religious beliefs. This is followed by a role-play activity, giving residents the opportunity to practice these new skill sets.
 - f) **Communication: Respectful and Appropriate Conversations** – Certain topics and conversations around the topic of religion can lead to questions about what is ethically and professionally appropriate when interacting with patients and/or their families. This section will be a vehicle to explore some of these scenarios – such as praying with patients or inappropriate religious expression on the part of the provider – and provide residents with guidelines for better practices.

2. Advanced Learning workshops: PowerPoint presentations and accompanying facilitators guides take trainers step by step through the process of delivering **three one-hour trainings on specific topics within religio-cultural competence**. These trainings review the concepts introduced in the full-day training while simultaneously introducing a new topic that residents should be aware of. The following topics are featured:
 - a) **Conscience Rules: The Intersection of Religion and Health Care** – Conscience can influence practitioner interactions with patients in a myriad of ways and, by extension, can influence the interactions and internal dynamics of the health care team. This training assists health care providers in learning to understand what conscience is in the context of a health care setting, identify when conscience influences their interactions with patients and develop skill sets to appropriately manage situations when conscience comes into play.
 - b) **Intersection of Religion & Mental Health** – Religion and culture influence how patients view and interact with the world around them which results in a unique relationship between religiosity and the field of mental health. This training will assist health care providers in beginning to understand this complex relationship so that they can more readily identify both how religion influences a patients’ understanding of mental illness and how it impacts patients’ decision-making around treatment and management of their condition.
 - c) **Intersections of Religion & LGBT Health** – Religion can have a significant impact on the health and well-being of LGBT patients, particularly adolescents. In order to be religio-culturally competent, pediatricians need to know how to discuss topics relating to sexual orientation and gender identity with patients and families of diverse religious backgrounds. This training will assist health care providers in learning to understand the unique health needs and risks of LGBT adolescents, identify how religion can positively or negatively impact LGBT adolescent health, and develop skill sets to appropriately manage situations where religion is a factor in the health of LGBT patients.
3. **Four in-depth case studies** are developed as PowerPoint presentations and are designed to be used during discussion sessions with residents of all years. These cases explore Tanenbaum’s “Trigger Topics,” including end-of-life care, acceptance of drugs and procedures, alternative remedies, and acceptance of blood and blood products. They are grounded in actual events drawn from published resources and from our experiences with health care providers, and each case illustrates challenges that can emerge when health care and religion intersect. They are designed to help residents develop guidelines for successfully managing such situations.
4. **A 30-minute self-learning multimedia presentation** (available as a PowerPoint presentation) with a related quiz for residents who are working with out-patients. This module summarizes select key points from the full-day training and provides case studies specific to out-patient clinics.